



WESTFORD WATER DEPARTMENT

Resource

ISSUE 13 | Fall 2022

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Water Commissioners

Hugh C. Maguire, Chair
Titus Palmer, Vice Chair
Chauncey Chu, Secretary
Tim Hall, Alternate

Department Contacts

Mark Warren, Superintendent
Dave Crocker, Operations Manager
Larry Panaro, Business Manager
Douglas Yargeau, Environmental Compliance Manager

Contributors

Mark Warren, Superintendent
Susan Silvia, Records Supervisor I
Douglas Yargeau, Env. Compliance Mgr.
Engineering Department

Hours of Operation:

7am to 4pm Monday-Friday (except Holidays)

How to Reach Us

Main Phone	(978) 692-5529
Superintendent	(978) 399-2457
Water Operations Manager	(978) 399-2456
Business Manager	(978) 399-2453
Environmental Compliance Manager	(978) 399-2454
Accounts Payable, Sandy Kane	(978) 399-2452
Billing, Dianne Tyman	(978) 399-2451
Collections, Susan Silvia	(978) 399-2475

Visit our website: www.westfordma.gov/water

After Hours

In the event of a water emergency outside of the work day, call the Police Department at (978) 399-2345. The police dispatcher will contact our on-call personnel for response.

Depot Road Well Replacement

In June 2021, the existing Depot Road well was cleaned and redeveloped in an effort to improve pump efficiency and capacity. However, the pump capacity did not improve as expected and a new replacement well was recommended. Fortunately, an ideal location was identified on the Depot Road property nearby to the original well. Construction has begun for the Depot Road Well Relocation Project. This project includes the construction of a new 24" x 18" gravel packed replacement well and pitless adapter. The work also includes 48-hour pumping test and additional hours for well development. The replacement well will provide additional volume for meeting Westford Water customer demand.

Pictured: Construction of Depot Road Replacement well



Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Update

In August 2021 the Westford Water Department found an elevated level of PFAS6 at our Forge Village Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Upon identification, we immediately removed the contaminated source—Country Road Well—from service and will remain out of service while we investigate the cause and develop a solution to this contamination. The Westford Water Department will continue monthly PFAS testing from each WTP, and these results will be reported on our website (www.westfordma.gov/water). The below tables summarize the PFAS6 results from both WTPs for 2022. These below results are in compliance with the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) drinking water standard of 20 ppt as a quarterly average.

PFAS6 Results for Forge Village Water Treatment Plant

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	*Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 1, 2022	January	7.10	4.77	20
	February	3.80		
	March	3.40		
Quarter 2, 2022	April	3.60	4.70	20
	May	3.90		
	June	6.60		
Quarter 3, 2022	July	6.90	4.70	20
	August	3.80		
	September	3.40		
Quarter 4, 2022	October	3.80	--	20
	November	3.70		
	December			

PFAS6 Results for Nutting Road Water Treatment Plant

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	*Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 1, 2022	January	19.1	17.3	20
	February	15.4		
	March	17.4		
Quarter 2, 2022	April	17.6	16.8	20
	May	15.8		
	June	17.0		
Quarter 3, 2022	July	16.3	16.0	20
	August	15.3		
	September	16.3		
Quarter 4, 2022	October	15.3	--	20
	November	14.6		
	December			

* Quarterly averages are calculated by adding the three-monthly sample results from within the quarter and dividing by three. If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.
ng/L = parts per trillion (ppt)

2022 Earth Day Celebration

The Westford Water Department was pleased to participate in last spring's Earth Day Celebration which was held on the Westford Common in April. Water conservation was our theme, including a rain barrel raffle, free water conservation devices as well as helpful tips and water saving advice. It was nice to see so many people enjoying a beautiful (but windy!) spring afternoon on Westford's common.

For water conservation information, visit the Westford Water Department website at:

www.westfordma.org/water



2022 Rain Barrel Sale

The Westford Water Department was pleased to partner once again with The Great American Rain Barrel Company to provide a community rain barrel program. The program was a great success in 2022 with 54 rain barrels sold at a discounted community price (our best year yet!).

If you didn't get a rain barrel this year, don't despair– we plan on participating in a municipal rain barrel program in the spring 2023.



A Word About Water Use Restrictions

We would like our customers to know that the Westford Water Department does not institute outdoor water use restrictions lightly. We instituted Stage 3 restrictions this past summer to ensure a sufficient volume of safe drinking water for domestic use, core business functions, and fire protection. The restrictions remained in effect for most of the summer and fall due to the significant drought in Massachusetts. As homeowners ourselves, we understand the desire to maintain one's property, and do not oppose irrigation. However, we must balance this against maintaining an appropriate supply of drinking water, and complying with our Mass DEP withdrawal permit. The reality is that our supply is limited and shared by surrounding communities, and we are obligated to meet certain conservation standards. Additionally, we are under the physical constraints of our system exacerbated by the temporary loss of a source due to PFAS contamination (see page 2).

It's important to understand that water conservation requirements mandated by the state are becoming more strict and new withdrawal permits are limiting non-essential uses of water – such as lawn irrigation. Visit the Water Department website at www.westfordma.org for water conservation information and efficient lawn care practices.

We appreciate our customers who take the restrictions to heart. Thank you to the residents and businesses who followed the outdoor water use restrictions. Sufficient water was available to fight several significant fires that Westford faced last summer.



How to Properly Dispose of Fallen Leaves and Yard Waste

Leaves and yard waste **CLOG** storm drains which can cause **FLOODING** and can also be a significant source of stormwater **POLLUTION**.

Leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from your lawn that end up in our **STREETS, SIDEWALKS, and STORM DRAINS** will eventually make their way into local **STREAMS, PONDS, and LAKES** which can cause serious water quality issues like **ALGAE BLOOMS**.

Properly dispose of yard waste by:



- *Mulching into lawns with your mower*
- *Bag for curbside pick-up*
- *Use in compost piles*

Never:



- *Blow into the street*
- *Dump into wetlands or waterbodies*
- *Rake into drainage ditches*
- *Put into regular trash containers*
- *Burn*

However you dispose of leaves and yard waste, please make sure you **KEEP THEM OUT OF THE STORM DRAINS**.



For more information on Yard Waste Collection visit the Westford Recycling Commission webpage at:

<https://westfordma.gov/408/Recycling-Commission>

Private Wells

Superintendent Named MWWA President

Have a question about your private well?

The [Water System Council](#) has information on caring for your private drinking water well. The [Be Well Informed \(BWI\)](#) online tool allows homeowners to enter water quality results and compare to state and federal guidelines.

For more information visit the Health Department website at www.westfordma.gov/health and click on the "Private Wells" link or contact Abby Graham, Environmental Service Manager, Westford Health Dept.: 978-399-2531 or at agraham@westfordma.gov. The Private Wells webpage provides links to MassDEP and [EPA](#) for helpful information on wells and well services.



Please note: There may be no connection between a private well and the public



Mark Warren, Superintendent of the Westford Water Department, was named President of the Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) on November 4.

Mark is the 74th president of the MWWA, a membership organization dedicated to the advancement of the drinking water profession. MWWA is also committed to public health by promoting a safe and sufficient supply of drinking water to Massachusetts consumers, and provides a wide range of technical training for Massachusetts drinking water operators. Mark is also a member of MWWA's Education Committee. He will serve as president for a one year term.

Stormwater Management for Businesses & Commercial Facilities



Parking Lots

Many things can be done to reduce polluted runoff from parking lots. Sweep paved surfaces of leaves, trash, and sediment on a regular basis. Inspect storm drains & drainage systems frequently and clean as needed. Consider retrofitting the facility with vegetated filter strips, rain gardens, or infiltration practices to capture pollutants and reduce stormwater runoff.



Fleet Care

Many institutions maintain fleets of trucks, buses, and other vehicles on site. Do this carefully to keep gasoline, oil, and soap suds out of storm drains and waterways. Vehicle maintenance should be done indoors, using drop cloths and drip pans. If there is a spill, clean it up promptly using absorbent sand and kitty litter.



Snow and Ice Removal

When road salt and deicers are used, melting snow carries those chemicals into waterways. These chemicals should be stored carefully and applied at an appropriate rate. When purchasing, read the labels on deicing products and choose those that are not toxic to animals and plants.



Outdoor Cleaning

Grounds crews should sweep sidewalks, loading docks, and parking lots and dispose of the trash and debris in a dumpster, rather than washing these areas with a hose. If outdoor washing is necessary, look for environmentally friendly, water-based cleaning products. Maintenance crews should rinse paint cans, brushes, buckets, or other cleaning materials in an indoor sink.



Landscaping & Lawn Care

Groundskeepers should test soil and read the label before applying fertilizer. If they use too much fertilizer, the excess will just wash away in the next rain, polluting our waterways. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and walkways. Put sprinklers on timers so they water early in the morning and point them so that they don't water the sidewalk or driveways.



Waste and Material Storage

If rain falls into your dumpsters or on your raw materials, then it's carrying some of that stuff with it as it drains away. A simple cover can take care of that problem. Property managers should inspect dumpster regularly and only store chemicals outside with tight-fitting lids.

For more information visit: <https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org>





Consumer Confidence Report

How do I learn about my public water quality? Check out the most recent Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)! The Water Department provides our customers with a direct link to the current electronic copy of the CCR on the Water Department website. **Visiting the following website address will take you to the current (2021) CCR:**

<https://www.westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1355>

The CCR contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water, and is well worth the time to review. Since electronic delivery has become our primary method for providing the annual CCR, it's important to note the following:

- **The Westford Water Department no longer mails out paper copies of the CCR unless requested.**
- **If you have previously requested a paper copy then one will automatically be sent to you each year (there is no need to make additional requests).**
- **Please call at 978-399-2457 (or send email to mwarren@westfordma.gov) if you would like a paper copy delivered to your home or business.**

In addition, paper copies of the CCR will still be available at the Water Department, Town Hall, and other municipal and community buildings.



**Westford Water Department
60 Forge Village Road
Westford, MA 01886**

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